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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SAIGON 157

SUB: BIO, PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES:
HOANG CO BINH - LIEU QUANG KHINH

REF: A) SAIGON 76 B) SAIGON 154

1. DR. BINH IS A 58-YEAR OLD NORTHERN CATHOLIC DENTIST AND LONG-TIME POLITICIAN, CURRENTLY MEMBER OF THE SAIGON PROFECTURAL COUNCIL. LIEU QUANG KHINH IS AN ELDERLY SOUTHERN LANDOWNER.

2. DR. BINH WAS BORN IN 1909 IN HA DONG PROVINCE AND EDUCATED IN PARIS. DURING WORLD WAR II HE PRACTICED DENTISTRY IN HANOI. IN 1945 HE WAS IDENTIFIED AS A SUPPORTER OF EFFORTS TO RECONCILE HO CHI MINH AND NATIONALIST LEADER NGUYEN HAI THAN. IN 1950 HE FOUNDED THE NEWSPAPER GIANG SON IN HANOI, WHICH HE EDITED UNTIL 1954; IN ITS FIRST ISSUE HE WARNED AGAINST SUPPORTING HO CHI MINH MERELY BECAUSE HE WAS ANTI-FRENCH, AND SAID THAT INDEPENDENCE WITHOUT FREEDOM WAS WORTHLESS. BINH WAS PRESIDENT OF THE COMMISSION FOR SUTDY OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY IN 1951, AND LEADER OF THE UNITY PARTY WIICH WAS THE HANOI MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS IN 1953. IN 1954 HE WAS CONSULTED BY EMPEROR BAO DAI ABOUT THE SELECTION OF NGO DINH DIEM AS PRIME MINISTER, AND AFTER THE GENEVA ACCORDS HE WAS CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE FOR THE DEFENSE OF NORTH VIET-NAM WHICH GOVERNED THE NORTH DURING THE BRIEF PERIOD BEFORE THE FRENCH WITHDRAWAL. IN AUGUST 1954 HE CAME TO SAIGON AND ESTABLISHED A DENTAL PRACTICE. HE LATER BROKE WITH NGO DINH DIEM OVER DIEM'S FAILURE TO ATTEMPT TO RETAIN NORTH VIET-NAM.

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3. IN NOVEMBER 1960 BINH SIGNED A MANIFESTO SUPPORTING THE ATTEMPTED COUP, AND WHEN IT FAILED HE WAS FORCED TO CLOSE HIS OFFICE FOR SEVERAL MONTHS. AT THE TIME OF THE OVERTHOW OF DIEM, BINH WAS REPORTEDLY SERVING ON THE FACULTY OF MEDICINE OF SAIGON UNIVERSITY. HE WAS NAMED TO THE COUNCIL OF NOTABLES IN 1963. IN JUNE 1964 BINH FOUNDED THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC BLOC WHICH SUPPORTED A RETURN TO CIVILIAN RULE, BUT HE WAS NOT SATISFIED WITH ATTEMPTS MADE IN THIS DIRECTION DURING THE TRAN VAN HUONG AND PHAN HUY QUAT REGIMES. IN MAY 1965 BINH WAS ELECTED TO THE SAIGON CITY COUNCIL, WHICH HE REGARDED AS A STEP TOWARD RETURNING THE COUTRY TO CIVILIAN RULE. HE ALSO SERVED IN THE NATIONAL POLITICAL CONGRESS IN APRIL 1966, IN WHICH IT WAS DECIDED THAT ELECTIONS WOULD BE HELD FOR A CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY.

4. BINH'S RUNNING MATE LIEU QUANG KHINH WAS BORN IN CAN THO IN 1892. HE IS REPORTEDLY A LONG-TIME REVOLUTIONARY NATIONALIST. HE WAS A CLERK FOR 15 YEARS. IN CAN THO HE HAS BEEN CHAIRMAN OF THE MUTUAL ASSISTANCE ASSOCIATION, AND A LANDOWNER; HE CURRENTLY LIVES IN GIA DINH.

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